

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, there is worldwide concern regarding the plight of elephants and rhinoceroses, who are being poached at alarming rates — an average of 96 elephants per day are killed in Africa, and more than 1,020 rhinos out of a remaining 29,000 in the wild were poached in South Africa alone in 2014, threatening these species with extinction; and

WHEREAS, illegal poaching and wildlife trafficking is the fourth largest transnational crime and ivory helps fund the military operations of notorious terrorist groups; and

WHEREAS, international, federal, and state laws are all being strengthened to protect these iconic species from cruelty and extinction, and the states of New York and New Jersey recently enacted strong prohibitions on intra-state ivory and rhinoceros horn commerce, and the federal government has proposed strengthened ivory trade and import regulations; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has consistently ranked among the top trading markets for illegal ivory in the United States; and

WHEREAS, California has prohibited the ivory trade since 1977, but a loophole has rendered the law unenforceable, allowing illegal sales to flourish; and

WHEREAS, AB 96 closes the existing loophole in state law to prohibit the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn, except as specified, and makes this prohibition enforceable by the Department of Fish and Wildlife;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 96 prohibiting the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn in California, with violators subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Paul Krout
Theresa O'Zant
Paul Krout

[Signature]

JAN 30 2015

ORIGINAL